

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A tarnish-resistant coated object according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 40, wherein said object is selected from an ornamental object, a piece of jewelry, an optical object, a coin, a medal, an electrical object, a kitchen object and a military object.

32. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A tarnish-resistant coated object according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 40, wherein said object comprises at least one of sterling silver, silver plate and fine silver (100% silver).

33-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A tarnish-resistant coated object ~~according to claim 1 comprising an object and a silver-tungsten coating on said object~~, wherein said silver-tungsten coating is provided by electroless deposition from an aqueous composition comprising:

a soluble source of silver ions;

a soluble source of tungsten ions;

a reducing agent; and

at least one additive polyethylene glycol (PEG); and

wherein said tarnish-resistant coated object has a reflectance of more than 0.6 at 700 nm after a time period of at least one hour of exposure to heated air.

41. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a tarnish-resistant silver-tungsten coated object comprising:

mixing a first aqueous solution comprising a soluble source of silver ions, a soluble source of tungsten ions and polyethylene glycol (PEG) with a second aqueous solution comprising a reducing agent so as to provide an active silver tungsten electroless deposition solution; and

immersing an object in said active electroless deposition solution for a time period sufficient to provide a tarnish-resistant silver tungsten coated object,

wherein said ~~tarnish-resistant~~ silver tungsten coated object is considered to be tarnish-resistant if it has a reflectance of more than 0.6 at 700 nm after a time period of at least one hour of exposure of said tarnish-resistant silver tungsten coated object to ~~ambient~~heated air.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein said first solution comprises ~~a reducing agent~~ammonium acetate.

43. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 42~~ claim 41, wherein said reducing agent is hydrazine hydrate.

44. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein said first solution comprises a chelator.

45. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 44, wherein said chelator is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA).

46. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein said ~~second~~ first solution comprises ~~a soluble source of silver ions and a soluble source of tungsten ions~~benzotriazole (BTA).

47. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein said object is a metallic object.

48. (Original) A method according to claim 47, wherein said metallic object is a silver object.

49. (Original) A method according to claim 48, wherein said silver object is selected from an ornamental object, a piece of jewelry, an optical object, a coin, a medal, an electrical object, a kitchen object and a military object.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 48, wherein said silver object comprises at least one of sterling silver, silver plate and fine silver (100% silver).

51-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein said object is a non-metallic object.

54. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 52~~ claim 53, wherein said non-metallic object comprises at least one of the following materials: a plastic, a polymer, a ceramic material, a cellulose-based material, an inorganic material, an organic material and a fabric.

55-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An electroless plating composition comprising an aqueous solution for electrolessly plating a surface, comprising:

a soluble source of silver ions;

a soluble source of tungsten ions;

a reducing agent;

~~at least one additive;~~ and

~~a polymer adapted to induce filling of at least one of:~~

~~_____ a substantially vertical trench of more than 300 nm depth; and~~

~~_____ a substantially horizontal gap of more than 200 nm width;~~

~~on said surface~~ polyethylene glycol; and

wherein said plating composition is adapted to electrolessly deposit a ~~corrosion-free~~
~~conformal~~ tarnish-resistant layer of silver tungsten on said surface, wherein said layer is ~~from about~~

~~0.05 to around 10 microns thick~~ has a reflectance of more than 0.6 at 700 nm after a time period of at least one hour of exposure of said tarnish-resistant silver tungsten coated object to heated air.

65-115. (Cancelled)

116. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An electroless plating composition for preventing discoloration of a metallic object comprising an aqueous electroless plating solution, comprising:

a soluble source of silver ions;

a soluble source of tungsten ions;

a reducing agent; and

~~at least one additive~~ polyethylene glycol (PEG); and

wherein said plating composition is adapted to electrolessly deposit a layer of silver-tungsten on said metallic object so as to provide a silver-tungsten plated metallic object such that said silver-tungsten plated metallic object ~~has less than a 5% increase in light absorbance in a range of incident light at 400-700 nm after exposure to ambient air for a time period of at least one week~~ a reflectance of more than 0.6 at 700 nm after a time period of at least one hour of exposure of said tarnish-resistant silver tungsten coated object to heated air.

117-129. (Cancelled)

130. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a silver ternary metal layer on a surface, comprising:

electrolessly plating said surface in an electroless plating composition for a sufficient time to plate said surface with ~~at least one of a silver-tungsten-molybdenum layer and a silver tungsten rhenium layer.~~

131. (Cancelled)

132. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An electroless plating composition, comprising:

a soluble source of silver ions;

a soluble source of tungsten ions;

~~at least one of a soluble source of molybdenum and~~ a soluble source of rhenium;

a reducing agent; and

~~at least one additive~~ polyethylene glycol.

133. (Cancelled)